

# HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1104

By DuBois

A RESOLUTION to recognize William R. Walter on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of industry; and

WHEREAS, William R. Walter is one such estimable person who served with distinction for more than forty years as an administrator in some of Tennessee's most important hospitals, and he took a much deserved retirement on August 4, 2006; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Walter began his career at West Virginia University, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and Psychology in 1963, and he obtained a master's degree in Hospital Administration from the University of Minnesota in 1965; and

WHEREAS, in 1965, he completed his residency at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Memphis; his remarkable talent and skill was recognized by his naming as an Administrative Assistant at the hospital; and

WHEREAS, subsequently, William Walter joined Baroness Erlanger Hospital in Chattanooga in 1966; he served with great probity as the Assistant Administrator until 1974, when he was chosen to serve as the Administrator and Chief Executive Officer for Maury Regional Hospital (MRH) in Columbia, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, during his distinguished thirty-two year career at the head of MRH, Mr. Walter's laudable leadership guided the hospital to many noteworthy successes, including renovations to the facilities and large expansions to the number of personnel and patients; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Walter has been an important part of the advancement of hospitals and the practice of medical care and he has maintained membership in many professional

organizations, such as the Tennessee Not-for-Profit Hospital Association, which he has served as a member of the board and the Executive Committee, as Vice President, and as President, and the Tennessee Hospital Association (THA), which he has served as Vice Chairman, Chairman, and Chairman of many important committees, including the Professional Standards Committee, the Council on Public Relations, the Medicaid Task Force Committee, and the Budget and Finance Committee. He has also served as the President of the Chattanooga Area Hospital Council, as the Chairman of the Tennessee Voluntary Effort for Health Care Cost Containment, as a Delegate for the American Hospital Association, as the President for the Board of Directors of the Community Health Consortium, and as a member of the Tennessee State Regional Medical Program Advisory Board, the Board of Directors of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Tennessee, the Tennessee Casualty Insurance Company Board of Directors, the Governor's TennCare Roundtable, and the South Central Regional Health Council; and

WHEREAS, a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and an exceptional asset to his community, William Walter has been an integral member of the Columbia Kiwanis Club, the Maury County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, the Executive Board of the Middle Tennessee Boy Scout Council, the Leadership Maury Board, and the Governor's Public Health Council; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Walter's many remarkable successes have been recognized by innumerable awards, including the 1979 THA Service Award, the 1990 THA Distinguished Service Award, the 1993 American College of Healthcare Executives Distinguished Service Award, the 1996 THA President's Award, the 1998 Columbia Rotary Club Paul Harris Fellowship, and the 1999 Rotary Club Outstanding Community Leader Award; and

WHEREAS, William Walter exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Mr. Walter has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to William R. Walter our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.